Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A homoserine transsuccinylase which, as compared with a homoserine transsuccinylase wild-type enzyme, exhibits a reduced sensitivity toward L-methionine or S-Adenosylmethionine (SAM), with the wild-type enzyme possessing an amino acid sequence which comprises a constituent sequence TyrGlnXaaThrPro, with the Thr of this constituent sequence being between position 285 and 310 of the amino acid sequence and with position 1 being the starting methionine, wherein it exhibits a change of at least 2 amino acids as compared with the wild-type enzyme, with this change of the at least 2 amino acids being in the Thr of the constituent sequence or C-terminally thereof, and wherein the homoserine transsuccinylase contains one of the mutations listed in Table 1.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in claim 1, wherein it exhibits a change of at least 5 amino acids, preferably of at least 10 amino acids.

Claim 3 (Previously presented):   A homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in claim 1, wherein it exhibits a resistance toward the inhibitors SAM and/or L-methionine which is increased (increased Ki) at least 2-fold as compared with that of the wild-type enzyme.

Claim 4: Canceled.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented):   A metA allele which encodes a homoserine transsuccinylase as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented):   A plasmid, wherein it contains a metA allele as claimed in claim 5 together with a promoter.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented):   A microorganism strain, wherein it contains a feedback-resistant metA allele as claimed in claim 5.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended):   A microorganism strain as claimed in claim 7, wherein it is a Gram-negative bacterial strain, preferably E. coli.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented):   A method for preparing L-

methionine or SAM by culturing a microorganism strain as claimed in claim 7.